

## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

### SEISMIC UPGRADE TO MAKE CAPTAIN COOK STUDENTS SAFER

VANCOUVER – The Province has approved \$4.1 million for phase two of a seismic upgrade to Captain James Cook elementary to make the school an even safer place for students and staff, Vancouver-Fraserview MLA Wally Oppal announced today.

“We spent nearly \$1 million on the first phase of seismic work in 2006, and now we’re finishing that work so that Captain James Cook school will be a safer place to learn for many years to come,” said Oppal. “The gymnasium and library already meet earthquake safety standards, but this funding will allow the district to complete seismic upgrades to the school.”

The funding will be used to upgrade the school’s classrooms and administrative area that were built in the 1950s. The upgrading of the two-storey classroom wing will include the construction of several new concrete shearwalls and foundations, and the replacement of masonry partitions with new steel stud and drywall partitions.

“The work on Captain Cook school is part of the government’s \$1.5-billion plan to make B.C. schools safer in the event of an earthquake,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “Our government is making the investments necessary to protect our students and staff.”

This last phase of seismic upgrades to Captain Cook school will be completed by December 2008. Four existing portables will provide temporary classroom space during the upgrades.

Captain Cook is one of 16 Vancouver schools that will receive structural seismic upgrades worth \$87.5 million. Since 2001, 67 seismic projects have been completed, are under construction or have finished feasibility studies.

“We’re pleased to see phase two going ahead as quickly as it is,” said Ken Denike, chair of the Vancouver school board. “This is a very important project and moving now, ahead of schedule illustrates the strong cooperation that exists between our board and the ministry.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$71.4 million in the Vancouver school district to complete 24 capital projects. During the same period, the Province invested \$1 billion on 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations.

- 2 -

By the end of 2007-08, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia.

-30-

Media      Greg Dickson  
contact:    Public Affairs Bureau  
             Ministry of Education  
             250 387-6940  
             250 882-1559 (cell)

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